

Message Text

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43

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 RSC-01 CIAE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY DACCA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5397

INFO AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, BG, IN

SUBJ: BANGLADESH FOREIGN SECRETARY TO VISIT DELHI

1. BANGLADESH FOREIGN SECRETARY FAKHRUDDIN AHMED WILL BEGIN A FOUR-DAY VISIT TO NEW DELHI ON JANUARY 14. DURING THE VISIT THE FOREIGN SECRETARY WILL HOLD DISCUSSIONS ON A NUMBER OF BILATERAL ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL MATTERS. TOPICS OF GREATEST INTEREST WILL BE (1) IMPLEMENTATION OF THE LAND BOUNDARY AGREEMENT, (2) THE INDO-BANGLADESH MARITIME BOUNDARY, (3) FARAKKA BARRAGE, (4) ANTI-SMUGGLING MEASURES, AND (5) PROMOTION OF INDUSTRIAL COOPERATION.

2. COMMENT: AS REPORTED, THE MARITIME BOUNDARY AND FARAKKA BARRAGE ISSUES ARE FELT PARTICULARLY KEENLY BY THE BENGALEES. IT SEEMS CLEAR FROM HERE THAT INSOFAR AS DIVISION OF GANGA WATERS IS CONCERNED, THE FINAL DECISION WILL HAVE TO BE TAKEN BY MRS. GANDHI AND SHEIKH MUJIB; FAKHRUDDIN AHMED'S DISCUSSIONS THUS MAY BE DIRECTED AT NARROWING DIFFERENCES. RE THE MARITIME BOUNDARY, THE BENGALEES HAVE ALREADY DELINEATED THE AREA THEY CLAIM AND WILL

BE MOST RELUCTANT TO ACCEPT ANY REDUCTION IN ITS EXTENT. THE INDIANS, ON THE OTHER HAND, APPEAR TO HAVE CONCLUDED THAT BANGLADESH HAS ENCROACHED ON INDIAN TERRITORIAL WATERS EVEN IF
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NO MORE THAN A SIX-MILE RULE IS USED; WHEN AN ECONOMIC ZONE IS

FACTORED IN, THE INDIANS THINK A VERY SIGNIFICANT AREA MAY BE
INVOLVEDB AGAIN, WE WOULD ANTICIPATE THAT RESOLUTION OF THIS
ISSUE WILL REQUIRE A POLITICAL DECISION.
BOSTER

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